

**ANDOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2015**

Town of Andover
36 Bartlet Street
3rd Floor Conference Room
7:45pm

Conservation Members in Attendance:

Chairman Donald Cooper, Commissioner Alix Driscoll, Commissioner Ellen Townson, Commissioner Kevin Porter, Commissioner Floyd Greenwood and Commissioner Jon Honea. Staff members present were Robert Douglas, Director of Conservation and Linda Cleary, Conservation Agent.

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

164-168 Andover Street

Staff Recommendation: Close Public Hearing and Issue Order of Conditions

Present in Interest: Cari Orsi, Erin McLaughlin, Ed Ataide, Peter Paquette

Public Hearing on a Notice of Intent filed by the Town of Andover under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, § 40 and/or the Andover Wetlands Protection By-law, Article XIV, for proposed improvements to the park including new playground equipment, walkways, parking and ADA/MAAB improvements at **164-168 Andover Street**.

Commissioner Ellen Townson recused herself from the discussion and presentation and took a seat in the audience.

Mr. Douglas presented these to the Commission. The filing is for the renovation of a local playground to provide safe equipment and provide ADA compliance. The project is downhill from the river and across the street, so there is no real chance of runoff reaching any resource area. The playground is outside the FEMA floodplain and not within the jurisdictional area of the Shawsheen River and BVW.

Cari Orsi of Pare Corp presented the project to the Commission. The project will upgrade the ADA components and upgrade the playground equipment. The playground is located within 200 feet of Clark Brook. Clark Brook is piped underground. There will be 5 parking spaces off site with paved access to the play structures using pervious pavement. There will be two separate play spaces, one for ages 3-5 years and the other for ages 5-12 years old. The paved basketball court will remain as is as will the Little League Baseball field. Rain gardens will be constructed to help with the stormwater. The grade will be higher close to the parking area and graded lower towards the railroad tracks to disburse the water over the entire site. There are a list of Add-On

Alternatives that can be added if funding allows, such as a shaded area; ornamental fencing; stone dust walking loop; upgraded play structure; 4 additional parking spaces and a chain link fence around the entire playground area. Chairman Cooper reminded the Commission that the Commission is to only focus on the wetland considerations of this project.

Mr. Douglas restated that the riverfront resource area is across two roads and one sidewalk and the front of the parking area is the only portion of the project within the 200 foot riverfront.

There is no work proposed within the 100 foot inner riparian. This is considered redevelopment of a currently disturbed area within 200 foot outer riparian which makes this an allowed use.

Commissioner Greenwood inquired about the wetland in the back as shown on the GIS map. This is actually a man made ditch.

Commissioner Honea asked if there was a maintenance plan for the rain gardens. The grasses will be maintained as in other rain gardens used in Town.

Commissioner Driscoll asked if soil was being brought in for the project. Soil will be brought in only to be used under the pavement, everything else will be kept on grade. She also asked that no pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers be used and removed from the maintenance plan. The Commission agreed and asked that condition be included in the Special Conditions to the Order of Conditions.

Mr. Douglas agreed to revise the Special Conditions to include all Add-On Alternatives presented.

Peter Paquette, an abutter, expressed his concern that the parking area on the corner of Clark Road and Andover Street is a dangerous area for cars to be pulling in and out. He is also concerned that the park will bring too many people to the neighborhood.

Ed Ataide stated that the playground needs to become ADA compliant and the equipment needs to be replaced, he cannot “just replace a few swings”.

Chairman Cooper asked for a Motion. Commissioner Greenwood made a Motion to close the public hearing and issue the Order of Conditions with the additions discussed; it was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll and unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

41 Porter Road

Request for temporary cessation of site monitoring.

Commissioner Driscoll made a Motion to approve; it was seconded by Vice Chairman Porter and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes

Approval of minutes from January 6, 2015.

17 Sugarbush Lane

Issuance of a Satisfactory Completion of Work Certificate.

Vice Chairman Porter made a Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda; it was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll and unanimously approved.

LATE/DISCUSSION ITEMS THAT MAY REQUIRE A VOTE:

1320 South Street

Discussion regarding land acquisition and/or assignment of Rights of First Refusal.

This was discussed in Executive Session with the Board of Selectmen. No discussion took place. Item Tabled.

Update on Dug Pond Survey

Andover Consultants is surveying the conservation land around Dug Pond. It was suggested that three additional parcels, rights of ways, etc be done at the same time as it is cost effective to have it all done and on one plan to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds. The additional cost is \$3,900.00. These properties need to be marked by an engineer as this is not an easy survey in the field.

Commissioner Greenwood stated that the provider may be a little expensive; however he has working knowledge and expertise of the area. This will resolve any issues regarding access, rights of way and land ownership. All abutter will receive a copy of the plan to be recorded.

Commissioner Greenwood made a Motion to authorize spending an additional \$3,900.00 to complete the survey of the three adjacent parcels; it was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll and unanimously approved.

The Commission entered into Executive Session to approve Executive Session Minutes and will not return to open session, but to adjourn the meeting on a Motion by Vice Chairman Porter; seconded by Commissioner Driscoll and unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be held February 3, 2015 at 7:45pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm by Motion of Commissioner Driscoll and seconded by Commissioner Townson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Lynn Viselli,
Recording Secretary**